

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A method in a data processing system for processing a request, the method comprising:

receiving the request;

responsive to a first hash value being present within the request, comparing the first hash value to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for a quality of service;

responsive to a match between the first hash value and the second hash value, setting a quality of service based on information associated with the first hash value;

responsive to an absence of a hash value in the request, identifying a policy rule for processing the request to form an identified policy rule;

identifying a classification for the request using the identified policy rule;

hashing the current policy configuration, of which the identified policy rule is a part, using a hashing algorithm to generate a current hash value; and

placing the current hash value and the information into the request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the hash value and the information are placed into a cookie.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A method in a data processing system for processing a request, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving a request containing a selected cookie in which the selected cookie includes a first hash value and information associated with the hash value, determining whether the first hash value corresponds to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for processing requests by the data processing system;

responsive to a correspondence between the first hash value and the second hash value, processing the request using the information;

responsive to receiving a request containing the selected cookie, determining whether the selected cookie is stale;

responsive to a determination that the selected cookie is not stale, generating a new classification for the request; and

responsive to a determination that the selected cookie is stale, preventing initiation of the step of determining whether the first hash value corresponds to a second hash value.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

responsive to an absence of the selected cookie, processing the request with the current policy configuration to generate a first classification for the request;

applying a hashing algorithm to the current policy configuration to generate the first hash value; and

placing the first hash value and information associated with the first hash value within a new cookie.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the selected cookie includes a universal resource identifier, a user identification, and a user group identification.

12. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A data processing system for processing a request, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving the request;

comparing means, responsive to a first hash value being present within the request, for comparing the first hash value to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for a quality of service;

setting means, responsive to a match between the first hash value and the second hash value, for setting a quality of service based on information associated with the first hash value;

first identifying means, responsive to an absence of a hash value in the request, for identifying a policy rule for processing the request to form an identified policy rule;

second identifying means for identifying a classification for the request using the identified policy rule;

hashing means for hashing the current policy configuration, of which the identified policy rule is a part, using a hashing algorithm to generate a current hash value; and

placing means for placing the current hash value and the information into the request.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the hash value and the information are placed into a cookie.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A data processing system for processing a request, the data processing system comprising:

first determining means, responsive to receiving a request containing a selected cookie in which the selected cookie includes a first hash value and information associated with the hash value, for determining whether the first hash value corresponds to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for processing requests by the data processing system;

processing means, responsive to a correspondence between the first hash value and the second hash value, for processing the request using the information;

second determining means, responsive to receiving a request containing the selected cookie, for determining whether the selected cookie is stale;

generating means, responsive to a determination that the selected cookie is not stale, for generating a new classification for the request; and

preventing means, responsive to a determination that the selected cookie is stale, for preventing initiation of the first determining means.

24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the processing means is a first processing means and further comprising:

second processing means, responsive to an absence of the selected cookie, for processing the request with the current policy configuration to generate a first classification for the request;

applying means for applying a hashing algorithm to the current policy configuration to generate the first hash value; and

placing means for placing the first hash value and information associated with the first

hash value within a new cookie.

25. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the selected cookie includes a universal resource identifier, a user identification, and a group identification.

26. - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for processing a request, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving the request;

second instructions, responsive to a first hash value being present within the request, for comparing the first hash value to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for a quality of service;

third instructions, responsive to a match between the first hash value and the second hash value, for setting a quality of service based on information associated with the first hash value;

fourth instructions, responsive to an absence of a hash value in the request, for identifying a policy rule for processing the request to form an identified policy rule;

fifth instructions for identifying a classification for the request using the identified policy rule;

sixth instructions for hashing the current policy configuration, of which the identified policy rule is a part, using a hashing algorithm to generate a current hash value; and

seventh instructions for placing the current hash value and the information into the request.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the hash value and the information are placed in a cookie.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for processing a request, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving a request containing a selected cookie in which

the selected cookie includes a first hash value and information associated with the hash value, for determining whether the first hash value corresponds to a second hash value, wherein the second hash value represents a current policy configuration for processing requests by the data processing system;

second instructions, responsive to a correspondence between the first hash value and the second hash value, for processing the request using the information;

third instructions, responsive to receiving a request containing the selected cookie, for determining whether the selected cookie is stale;

fourth instructions, responsive to ~~an absence~~ by a determination that the selected cookie is not stale, for generating a new classification for the request; and

fifth instructions, responsive to a ~~determination~~ determination that the selected cookie ~~[[being]]~~ is stale, for preventing initiation of the first determining step.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising:

sixth instructions, responsive to an absence of the selected cookie, for processing the request with the current policy configuration to generate a first classification for the request;

seventh instructions for applying a hashing algorithm to the current policy configuration to generate the first hash value; and

eighth instructions for placing the first hash value and information associated with the first hash value within a new cookie.

37. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the selected cookie includes a universal resource identifier, a user identification, and a group identification.

38. (Cancelled)